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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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CONGO

The uneasy peace in the Congo has been broken by hostilities between central government forces and Katangan troops along the Katanga-Kasai border. On 30 October, UN authorities in Leopoldville informed Premier Adoula that a Katangan aircraft had bombed the railroad line between Kamina and Luluabourg in Kasai Province. On the same day Adoula, while stopping short of a formal declaration of war, announced a "police action" aimed at destroying the Tshombé regime.

Sporadic skirmishing along the Katangan border had begun as early as 18 October, apparently between a Congolese Army battalion and a company of Katangan troops. On 31 October, Congo Army headquarters in Leopoldville admitted that two of its battalions had crossed into Katanga. The fighting interrupted an exchange of notes between Tshombé and Adoula which showed some promise of leading to "summit" negotiations; Tshombé informed Adoula in late October that he would not consider negotiations until Congolese forces had withdrawn from Katanga. UN officials quoted Adoula on 28 October as assuring Tshombé that he would not invade Katanga.

In Stanleyville, meanwhile, Gizenga continued to recruit for his "Lumumbist" party and to strengthen his position as a counterpoise to Adoula. On

25 October he eliminated a long-time rival with the arrest of the president of Orientale Province, Jean Manzikala. There are indications that Gizenga's tacit break with Adoula is not supported by some of his former associates, including Interior Minister Gbenye. Gizenga nonetheless appears to control General Lundula, whose Congolese Army forces in Orientale and Kivu provinces total about 7,000 men.

Both Adoula and Gizenga appear apprehensive that the other may prove capable of gaining the prestige which would go with ending Katanga's secession. During the last half of October, while central government and Katangan forces skirmished along the Kasai border, Gizenga moved large numbers of troops toward northern Katanga. [REDACTED] reported on 30 October that since mid-October Gizenga had airlifted about 1,500 troops from Stanleyville to Kindu, in addition to dispatching daily truckloads of "soldiers, equipment, and beer." Rumors of Gizenga's preparations may have prompted Adoula's announcement of a "police action" against Tshombé.

[REDACTED] says the present objective of central government units along the Kasai-Katanga border is to capture the airstrip at Kaniama, from which the Katangan aircraft reportedly

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launched its attack on the Kamina-Luluabourg rail line. Although Swedish jets began a patrol of the border area on 31 October with orders to shoot down any Katangan aircraft, Ambassador Gullion has characterized UN officials as seemingly unconcerned about the war threat. In treating the Katanga air attack as a violation of their cease-fire agreement with Tshombé, UN officials appear to be interpreting the agreement--which assures Katanga of the right of self-defense against an attack from "the exterior"--as not applicable to Adoula's campaign to end Katanga's secession.

On 29 October, Tshombé flew from Elisabethville to Geneva for a visit of one to two weeks, ostensibly for reasons of health.

On 30 October, Soviet UN representative Zorin stated that the USSR will shortly raise the Congo issue in the Security Council, where the USSR will preside during November. Ambassador Stevenson observes that the USSR can be expected to denounce the Katanga cease-fire, endorse the central government's military action in Katanga, and publicize Tshombé's purchase of aircraft in Western Europe.

Because most of Tshombé's forces are located in southern Katanga, large-scale fighting along the Kasai-Katanga border appears unlikely at this time. Should Gizengist forces move into northern Katanga, where Tshombé has garrisoned certain towns, battalion-level clashes could result. Tshombé has never exercised firm control of northern and northwestern Katanga, and invading units--even though of small size--could possibly penetrate a considerable distance toward Elisabethville. Such incursions would probably have little effect on the stability of Tshombé's regime, and in view of the distances involved would probably lose the character of a military operation.

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